/10 cont./

*241 372 them to work too quickly, or else they would merely burn the small branches and foliage and leave the trunks intact. The trees would be charred rather than burned.

To set the brush on fire, the Munduruků use torches made of dry straw or of certain resinous woods. With them, they set fire to various parts of the clearing. If there are other gardens or even houses nearby, and danger that the fire may reach them, they often burn first a narrow strip of brush lying below the wind, so that later [816] on the great fire in the clearing will tear a firebreak and will not go on to the neighboring forest or home. As a rule, they also prefer to burn the clearings before they set fire to the grasslands, as is their custom. According to them, the burning of huge expanses of grass- [824] lands would attract rainfalls that would interfere with the burning of the clearings.

6. The remaining brush. Taipa: "the brush"; "to pile up the brush" — taipa chign or taipa chichig: "to burn the brush" — taipa mapign or simply imapign, "to burn."

While the thin branches and trunk burn within hours or within a day, the larger trunks take longer, burning down slowly. Then comes the turn of the remaining brush: foliage, branches, and pieces of timber which have not burned up completely are gathered together and piled up on top of the thicker, still smoldering trunks, the better to destroy them. Then fire is set once more to this pyre, in order to reduce the remaining timber to ashes and clear the ground for planting.

Like all garden tasks, the burning, the piling up of the brush, and the burning of the pyre require presence and ability. Otherwise the Indian will get a poorly burned field.

*241 [821] 7. Digging and planting. Next comes the time of planting, in the month of September or October, depending on the first rains. Men and women go to the new plot to plant together. Planting is a dual task consisting of two distinct acts: digging or opening up the ground, and planting, /11/ that is to say, slipping the bitter-manioc shoots into the ground. The first task is the man's, the second the [469] woman's.